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April 20, 1964

TO: INR - Mr. Hughes
FROM: NEA - Phillips Talbot /i/ PT
SUBJECT: National Intelligence Survey Program

In response to your request of March 20, we have reviewed the NIS General Survey volumes for Syria and India. It is our conclusion, based upon your explanation and our examination of these two volumes, that the current emphasis on the survey series is entirely justified, since the volumes are potentially very useful.

In our bureaucracy we develop country policy and carry on our relations with any one country by means of a small army of ever-changing specialists, often widely dispersed and loosely organized. Under these circumstances it is important that all of us have recourse to a reasonably current, authoritative, brief descriptive analysis of each country. While the surveys will not be detailed enough for many specialists, they will serve a very significant purpose in educating newcomers and in providing a common reference base for the diverse specialists who must deal with "country" problems. The fact that each volume will be current, comprehensive, and of manageable scope will make it more attractive and more useful.

In summary, we wish to endorse this modification of the earlier NIS program and to express our hope that the General Surveys will be available for each country in our area and that they will be updated at frequent intervals.

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Review of this document by CIA has determined that

- ☒ CIA has no objection to declass
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Authority: HR 70-2

☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

Date 26 NOV 1980 Reviewer 059485

NEA/NR:GALee:erp 4/16/64

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